

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, our porous southwestern border is getting worse by the day and the number of illegal entries into the United States continues to grow at a ridiculously rapid rate.

Just yesterday, a study released by the Pew Hispanic Center said that the population of illegals is growing by 500,000 a year. This is because of the lack of border security in this country. Our government's failure to slow this illegal action is fueling financial crisis to American taxpayers, especially those in the 24 counties along the 2,000-mile border between the United States and Mexico.

The costs that come along with this are draining local communities as they struggle to find money for health care, education, and other social service costs associated with caring for illegal individuals. Unfortunately, the people that pay for this illegal activity are American citizens, not illegals. Americans pay the price for illegal immigration. Americans always pay.

Unrestricted illegal immigration throughout Texas and the entire United States drains local cities of money that should be used elsewhere. About 20 percent of health care costs, 20 percent of education costs, goes to those illegally in the United States. They take from America and do not contribute to these expenses.

There is more, Mr. Speaker. In California, San Diego County spends \$50 million a year in the arrest, jailing, and prosecution and defense of illegal immigrants for crimes committed after they enter the United States.

The University of Texas at El Paso has a study that found the following: Treating illegal immigrants in hospitals accounts for nearly one quarter of the uncompensated costs at border county hospitals in our country. Cochise County, Arizona spend tens of thousands of dollars picking up trash left at campsites by these illegals. Prosecuted and jailing illegals costs this county an additional \$5 million a year. And 25 percent of Cochise County's budget is paid to health care for the uninsured. Most of those people are illegally in the country.

Our out-of-control border is not only affecting the taxpayers, it is also affecting local law enforcement officials. According to the USA Today, in 2004 there were 1.14 million arrests along the U.S.-Mexico border. There are not nearly enough Federal detention centers to house all of these individuals; therefore, some are captured and then let go. Others are put in local jails, and once again, the taxpayer and local communities are left to foot this bill.

I have been down to the Texas-Mexico border and I have spoken firsthand

with numerous sheriffs in our communities. They are struggling and they need more help from the Federal Government. We have a policy in this country that we capture individuals who are illegally here and then release them. This catch-and-release policy defies common sense.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 10,000 FEMA trailers sitting in Hope, Arkansas that have never been used. They were not used in hurricane recovery because FEMA has some ridiculous policy that those trailers cannot go to flood-prone areas, so they were never used for individuals who had to evacuate because of Katrina and Rita. So why don't we take those 10,000 trailers down to the Texas-Mexico border and when we capture people illegally in the United States, why don't we put them in those trailers and house them there until they can be deported?

Mr. Speaker, the violence along our southern border continues to increase and violent confrontations between drug smugglers and law enforcement officials is at an all-time high. Local Texas sheriffs have come to expect violent resistance when they encounter drug smugglers and human traffickers. Not to mention our sheriffs are out-gunned, out-numbered, and out-financed by these outlaws. Drug cartels and coyotes, those individuals who smuggle other individuals into this country for money, have gone so far as to hire contract mercenaries from other countries to bring drugs and people across to the United States, across our borders.

□ 1945

According to the Washington Times, in the past 5 months the U.S. Border Patrol has detained 42,000 illegals who were convicted criminals or persons wanted for crimes committed at our borders. Last year, Homeland Security reported that 140,000 detainees apprehended at the border had criminal records at the time of their arrest.

Mr. Speaker, we must fight harder against the insurgent uprising at our borders and become more vigilant than we already are. Three groups enter our land illegally: those drug dealers, terrorist operatives and citizens from other countries. The illegals and drug cartels are only becoming more ruthless and defiant every day. That is because lawlessness on our border breeds more lawlessness.

Mr. Speaker, Third World countries protect their borders better than we do, the most powerful Nation on Earth. The failure of this Congress to act quickly on correcting our country's broken borders trickles down to the communities we all represent. We must enforce existing laws, as well as pass new ones that stop this lawlessness. We cannot ignore the facts and the key word is "illegal." It is illegal entry that we must stop.

Congress and America must have the moral resolve to protect the dignity of

our country. Send the word. We will secure our borders. That is just the way it is.

IN SEARCH OF A COMPETENT CONSERVATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Emmanuel) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of months and years, the American people have seen what has happened from Iraq, to Medicare, to port security, the economy and Katrina, and the government and this administration's response.

In the 2000 election, President Bush said he wanted to run as a compassionate conservative, and when you look at what has happened and the chaos that is caused by this administration in every one of those areas, forget just compassionate conservative, I would settle for a competent conservative at this point.

The response by this government in every one of those areas that created the kind of chaos that has happened, just take Iraq, for example, just as recently as this weekend. You have our ambassador saying that Iraq is on the beginning of a civil war. Joint Chiefs said that things are actually going well, and Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, said, nothing to worry about, our problem is the press does not accurately report. So either we are on the brink of a civil war, everything is going well, or the American press is actually to blame for what is happening in Iraq.

We have actually sent troops to battle without enough Kevlar vests. We have sent troops to battle with Humvees and turn our men and women into scrap metal collectors. When we had to oust Iraq from Kuwait, we sent a half a million troops; yet, to occupy Iraq, 138,000 troops. And Paul Bremer, the President's personal ambassador there to run the country, asked the Secretary of Defense, asked the President for more troops, and nobody responded.

What is the Republican Congress's response to that? Not a single question, not a single hearing, never asking a single question. This is the hear no evil, see no evil Congress. No oversight. Out of the \$480 billion appropriated, \$10 billion cannot be accounted for, and nobody's asked a single question or had a single hearing, and, in fact, they have opposed oversight to war profiteering commissions like we had in World War II.

So this Congress on Iraq, see no evil, hear no evil, stay the course, do not ask any questions, do not understand how we got to a situation where there is a failure on the intelligence, a failure to adequately supply our troops who are fighting valiantly, and they deserve a civilian leadership that is up to the kind of valiant leadership and

valiant efforts that they are, but on Iraq, not a question out of the Congress, not a change of course out of the President. They have rubber-stamped that policy.

Take the issue of Katrina. We all saw the tape last week of the President of the United States on that issue. Not a single question. We have had an American city literally wiped out, and what is the response? Billions of dollars are gone. Who is checking the books? Not this Congress. Just keep going, writing hot checks over there, and, again, companies are walking away with money, no services. We have trailers that are unoccupied. Nobody wants to ask the questions. See no evil, hear no evil Congress, rubber-stamp the policies. People are still dispersed, and nobody's back where they want to live, and we have trailers we bought with nobody living in them, but nobody wants to ask the question. See no evil, hear no evil, just rubber-stamp the policy.

What happened in Katrina? We now know for a fact that the government was notified beforehand that this was going to be the big one, and the head of the Homeland Security Department, he is still there and not being held accountable for what happened, and denied, when they said nobody knew this was going to happen, we now know 48 hours, not because they wanted us to know, but 48 hours beforehand they were notified that this was going to be the big one, that people in the Dome were going to be hurt, that they did not have the ability to evacuate everybody. Yet, the government fell down on its responsibility.

When you look at what has happened now in New Orleans and you are reminded of the fact that when George Bush ran for President in 2000, he said he was opposed to nation building, and you look at New Orleans today, who knew it was America he was talking about? Our schools, our health care system, the economy, the ability to be able to get back on their feet and get their lives moving again, this Congress, not a question, see no evil, hear no evil, rubber-stamp the policies. There we are again. The American people have been let down by their elected officials and this Republican Congress, this President.

Take the economy. We now have for the last 4 years added \$3 trillion to the Nation's debt, \$3 trillion. Every year for the last 4 years, they have come and asked for another raise in the debt ceiling of close to \$800 billion. By this time, end of a couple of months, we will be close to \$9 trillion in debt accrued in the last 4 years by this administration. Yet median incomes are down for the average family. Health care costs are up 58 percent. Education costs are at 38 percent. What does this Congress do? Stay the course, do not change the course, same old policies that got us right to where we are, an endless occupation and a jobless economy.

HONORING LAVERNE DUNLAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, in light of Women's History Month, today I rise in honor of Laverne Dunlap. Laverne Dunlap retired earlier this month after 35 years of service with the Michigan City, Indiana, Police Department. Her story is much more than just a story about a public servant. It is a story about a pioneer.

The story actually begins in Greenwood, Mississippi, where Laverne was born. At the age of 5, she moved to Kingston Heights, Indiana, with her family. In 1963, she moved to Michigan City, but she never forgot where she came from, and at the age of 21, she traveled back to Greenwood, Mississippi, with a traveling band to perform in her hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the true test of greatness is not how someone responds to success, but how they respond to adversity. The choices we make when we are in the midst of trials and tribulations are the true reflection of our character. Well, Mr. Speaker, one night in Greenwood, Mississippi, Laverne Dunlap's character was tested, and like many before her and many after her, she turned her trials into her triumph.

While swimming in a pool in the hotel where she was staying, Laverne and her sister were roughed up and arrested by police. Their crime, swimming in a pool only meant for white people. This was the moment when Laverne Dunlap knew her destiny was to become a police officer, not to exact revenge, but to make sure that those wearing the uniform of trust could truly be trusted.

In 1971, she joined the Michigan City Police Department with one other woman named Sue Bitter. They were the first women on the Michigan City Police Force, and throughout her 35 years, she worked in vice, juvenile crimes, uniform division, undercover, and she even spent some time driving the scuba team's boat.

She has earned the respect and admiration of her peers, her family, her community and certainly her Congressman. I congratulate her on her retirement and wish her the best of luck as she plans to spend time in her retirement with her 96-year-old mother.

Thank you, Laverne. You are a public servant and an inspiration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT GARRISON AVERY

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, First Lieutenant Garrison Avery died Wednesday, February 1, from injuries he sustained while serving in Iraq. The personnel carrier in which he was traveling hit a roadside bomb, killing him and two fellow soldiers. He was 23 years old. He leaves behind his wife Kayla, his bride of just 8 months.

Garrison was the son of Gary and Susan Avery of Lincoln, Nebraska. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 2000 and from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, in 2004. He then signed up for Army Ranger training, and with his strong intellect and fierce dedication, Garrison Avery became a decorated member of the United States Army. He served in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

In his service and in his life, Garrison exemplified the solemn virtues of the great American soldier: The drive and purpose that compelled him at 17 years old to earn his parents' permission to join the Army; the seriousness and excellence that propelled his decorated graduation from West Point; the humility and dignity that kept him from speaking of his numerous special honors awarded for excellent service; the compassion and justice that drove him beyond the call of duty to help Iraqi children, orphaned by the war; the strength, honor and courage he displayed as an officer, leading his troops in the midst of battle; and the faith, love and respect he gave to God, to his family and to his country.

We are also indebted to Garrison's beautiful family. Their love, their nurturing, and their support formed him, guided him and steadied him. His memory will live on through his family and friends, but also in the hearts of the community he bravely protected.